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THE INFINITY CRUSADE

A GATHERING OF THE FAITHFUL!

CRUSH THE INFIDELS!

DIRECT EDITION

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FOR WHERE GOD BUILT A CHURCH THERE THE DEVIL WOULD BUILD A CHAPEL... THE DEVIL IS EVER GOD'S APE. —MARTIN LUTHER.

BEHOLD THE GRANDEUR OF PARADISE OMEGA, MY FOLLOWERS!

GREET THE SECOND COMING, THE DAWN OF THE GODDESS!

FROM THIS TEMPLE WE WILL CLEANSE THE SPIRIT OF THE UNIVERSE, MY CHOSEN ONES!

THE SINS OF THE PAST WILL BE PURGED, AND ONCE AGAIN THE SUPREME ONE WILL SMILE ON THIS REALITY.

MY CHILDREN, PREPARE YOURSELF FOR...

THE INFINITY CRUSADE™ Vol. 1, No. 2, July, 1993. Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $2.50 per copy in the U.S. and $3.15 in Canada. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. INFINITY CRUSADE (including all prominent characters featured in the issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. Printed in Canada.

Enlightenment!

NO ORDINARY CATHEDRAL IS THIS WE STAND IN, MY FLOCK.

WITHIN THESE WALLS REST ALL THAT WE REQUIRE TO ACCOMPLISH OUR HOLY MISSION.

I PRESENT THEE WITH THE MOST ADVANCED IN COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO SPREAD THE GOOD WORD.

THERE ARE ALSO TELEPORTATION BANKS SO THAT THE SUPREME ONE'S WILL CAN BE CARRIED OUT ANYWHERE IN THE GALAXY.

ANY NEED SHALL BE SATISFIED.

WE STAND READY, MY GODDESS, TO TAKE UP THIS HALLOWED TRUST.

TELL US HOW WE MAY SERVE YOU!

JIM STARLIN
WRITER

RON LIM
PENCILER

AL MILGROM
INKER

JACK MORELLI
LETTERER

IAN LAUGHLIN
COLORIST

LYNAIRE BRUST
ASSISTANT EDITOR

CRAIG ANDERSON
EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO
OVERSEER

AND ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN FROM THIS SPIRITUAL GATHERING, ON THE PLANET EARTH: AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS.

I JUST GOT OFF THE COM-LINK WITH MENTOR OF TITAN...

...THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTED SIGHTINGS OF THANOS ANYWHERE IN THIS SPACE QUADRANT.

WHICH DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THANOS IS NOT IN-VOLVED IN THE DIS-APPEARANCES OF OUR FELLOW PARA-NORMALS.

I WONDER HOW THE EGGHEADS ARE DOING WITH-OUT REED BACKING THEM UP?

I'M SURE PROF. RICHARDS' ABSENCE IS DEEPLY FELT.

GREAT VOICE, DARKHAWK.

I STILL BET WARLOCK AND HIS BUNCH ARE INVOLVED IN THIS MESS, SOMEHOW.

WHY YOU FIGURE THAT?

INTUITION.

I NEVER DID TRUST ANY OF THOSE ALIEN TYPES.

IT NEVER HAPPENED, GRIMM. ALL MEDIA HYPE.

WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT DRAX CLEANED YER CLOCK A FEW WEEKS BACK?

LOOK! IT MY FRIEND, THE HULK!

THAT VOICE!

IT~IT CAN'T BE~!

IT'S DRAX! AND THAT TROLL, PIP!

AND THEY'VE GOT A BROTHER WITH THEM!

NOT TA MENTION MY MISSING BUDDY, REED!

GREETINGS, MY FELLOW DOERS AND SHAKERS.

DOESN'T TAKE NO GENIUS TA FIGURE WE'RE FINALLY MEETIN' THE BADDY BEHIND ALL OUR CURRENT PROBLEMS!

YOU TALKIN' TO ME?

YA GOT SOME NERVE KID-NAPPIN' A MEMBER OF THE F.F., BUB!

I OUGHTA ...HOLY COW!

YOU OUGHT TO WHAT?

GO TO SLEEP.

BAD MOVE, DRAX.

I DON'T THINK LUMPY'S FRIENDS ARE GOING TO TAKE KINDLY TO IT.

"SEE WHAT I MEAN?"

HEY, NO ONE TREATS THE THING LIKE THAT EXCEPT ME!

'BOUT TIME SOMETHING STARTED HAPPENING AROUND HERE!

BACK OFF, TUBBY!

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!

THE KID GLOVES ARE OFF THIS ROUND, DRAX!

HIYA, HULK!

NOW YOU DONE IT, YOU BIG OAF!

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

WILL YOU JUST LISTEN TO ME! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

THIS TIME I'M NOT HOLDING BACK WITH YOU!

CAN'T WE TALK THIS OUT, LADY?

DRAX GLAD TO SEE YOU TOO, HULK!

EVERYBODY-- KNOCK IT OFF!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE INFINITY WATCH IS ON OUR SIDE IN THIS CRISIS!

THEY'RE THE GOOD GUYS!

TOO BAD! I WAS JUST WARMING UP!

HEY! NO FAIR!

WHO'S THE WALKING INFLATABLE MUSCLE?

HIS NAME IS MAXAM, APPARENTLY AN UNOFFICIAL NEW MEMBER OF THE WATCH, AND HE SUFFERS FROM AMNESIA.

AND HE'S MY PAL.

FIGURES.

LET DRAX INTRODUCE YOU TO HIS OTHER PALS...

THIS IS MY BUDDY, THE BULK.

THAT'S THE HULK.

WHAT-EVER.

THIS IS IRON PAN.

IRON MAN.

CHAOS.

HAVOK.

THE BADGER.

WOLVERINE.

AND THIS IS~

YOU!

YOU'RE THE VISION!

HUH?

YOU GOT AMNESIA, HOW COME YOU KNOW THIS DUDE'S NAME?

I DON'T KNOW. IT JUST CAME TO ME.

MIGHTY SUSPICIOUS, YOU ASK ME.

SPEAKING OF SUSPICIONS THE AVENGERS HAD A QUINJET STOLEN--AND WRECKED--A FEW MONTHS BACK*

SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT THAT.

*WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #3.--CRAIG.

WHEN YOU NEWCOMERS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, AVENGERS' SECURITY AUTOMATICALLY SCANNED YOUR PERSONS--A STANDARD PRECAUTION.

THIS PROCEDURE TURNED UP SOMETHING VERY INTER-ESTING.

IT APPEARS PIP'S FINGER-PRINTS MATCH THOSE FOUND ON WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE STOLEN QUINJET.

WE HAD THE FANTASTI-CAR STOLEN AS WELL!

GREAT! JUST GREAT!

I...I... I...I... I...

I GOT THIS EVIL TWIN BROTHER, YOU SEE!

ME AN' HIM GOT THE SAME FINGER-PRINTS!

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR IMMEDIATE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER, I SUGGEST THIS MATTER BE TABLED FOR THE MOMENT.

GOOD IDEA.

WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

IN THE MEANTIME ANOTHER NOTE-WORTHY DISCOVERY HAS BEEN UN-EARTHED WHILE SEARCHING THROUGH THE COMPUTER BANKS.

IT APPEARS THAT OVER THE PAST FEW HOURS, NO POLICE FORCE ON EARTH HAS REPORTED ARRESTING ANY-ONE IN THE PRO-CESS OF AN ACTIVE CRIME.

AND I THINK I KNOW WHY.

MY SCANNER IS PICKING UP WIDESPREAD COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNIT ACTIVITY ON A TELEPATHIC LEVEL.

I SUSPECT THE ENTIRE PLANET MAY BE BLANKETED WITH THESE TRANS-MISSIONS.

YOU TALKING ABOUT LIKE COSMIC CUBES?

YES, I HAVE STRONG REASON TO BELIEVE OUR FELLOW PARANORMALS WERE MESMERIZED INTO AIDING IN THEIR OWN KIDNAPPINGS.

THESE SAME TRANS-MISSIONS APPEAR TO BE AFFECTING ALL THE CRIMINAL MINDS ON EARTH.

SOMEONE'S TURNING ALL THE BAD GUYS INTO HONEST CITIZENS?

WHY?

OBVIOUSLY TO FURTHER THE HIDDEN AGENDA OF THE LADY WHOM I BELIEVE HAS ENGINEERED THIS SITUATION.

LADY?

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE MORE IN THE KNOW THAN THE REST OF US, DOC.

CARE TO FILL US IN ABOUT THIS LADY?

MY KNOWLEDGE OF HER IS SKETCHY AT BEST, BUT I SUSPECT...

"...SHE'S NOT QUITE HUMAN."

I HAVE ALREADY BROUGHT PEACE AND TRANQUILITY TO THIS REGION OF SPACE.

HOW?

MY MERE PRESENCE IS RESPON-SIBLE.

BUT I ALONE CANNOT BRING ABOUT SUCH BOUNTY THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

ONLY WITH YOUR AID, MY TRUE BELIEVERS, CAN SUCH A MIRACLE COME TO FRUITION.

UNIVERSAL WILL CAN BRING ABOUT GALACTIC SALVATION.

HOW CAN WE TAP INTO THIS WILL?

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF DIVINE GUIDANCE.

WITH THE AID OF HEAVENLY GIFTS!

BEHOLD THE COSMIC EGG!

I DID GATHER 30 COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS FROM A DOZEN DIFFERENT REALITIES!

MY SPIRIT FORGED THEM INTO THIS SINGLE FORCE YOU SEE BEFORE YOU!

THEY ARE NOW FAR MORE THAN THE SUM OF THIER PARTS!

THIS BE THE REFLECTOR THROUGH WHICH COSMIC GROUP CONSCIOUSNESS SHALL BECOME UNIVERSAL CHANGE!

THERE ARE CERTAIN DREAMS NO ONE ENTITY SHOULD FORCE UPON REALITY.

BUT BILLIONS OF BELIEVERS CAN ALTER THE HEAVENS.

WITH YOUR HELP, MY CHILDREN, THIS UNION SHALL BE FORGED.

BELIEVE IN ME AND WE WILL DELIVER THIS UNIVERSE FROM ALL THE PAIN AND SORROW WHICH IS NOW ITS LOT.

DO YOU TRUST IN ME, SILVER SURFER?

YES.

BUT I STILL MUST ASK *HOW* THIS WONDERMENT WILL BE REALIZED.

THE COLLECTED INFINITY GEMS ARE A FAR MORE POTENT FORCE.

EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT THE *COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS* ARE NEARLY ALL-POWERFUL... BUT *NOT QUITE!*

TRUE, BUT THE SUPREME ONE'S SERVANT, THE LIVING TRIBUNAL, HAS RULED THAT THE INFINITY GEMS MAY NEVER AGAIN BE USED IN UNISON.

LINKED WITH A GROUP SOUL THE COSMIC EGG BECOMES THE MOST POWERFUL TOOL IN THIS REALITY.

BUT IS THERE NOT A CHANCE THAT *ETERNITY*, THE LIVING TRIBUNAL OR SOME OTHER COSMIC ENTITY MIGHT *INTERFERE* WITH OUR GREAT WORK?

WE SERVE THE SUPREME WILL.

WE DO NOTHING THAT EITHER ETERNITY OR INFINITY WOULD OBJECT TO.

THEY ARE ALREADY AWARE OF OUR MOVE-MENT.

NOTHING WILL STAND IN THE WAY OF OUR SAINTED DESTINY!

"MINE IS THE WAY OF THE LIGHT, THE KEY TO RAPTURE!"

FROM WITHIN THE COSMIC EGG I WILL CONTACT AND AWAKEN THE HOLY SPIRIT IN EVERY ENLIGHTENED BEING IN THE HEAVENS.

I SHALL GUIDE THIS COLLECTED CONSCIOUSNESS TO TRUE BLISS AND HOLY SALVATION!

BUT THIS SACRED CONVERSION SHALL REQUIRE MY COMPLETE STRENGTH AND ATTENTION.

WHILE SPREADING THIS GOSPEL I WILL BE VULNERABLE TO THE WRATH OF NON-BELIEVERS.

"IT SHALL BE YOUR TASK, MY HOLY GUARD, TO WATCH OVER MY TEMPORAL FORM WHILE MY SPIRIT SOARS.

"WILL YOU PROTECT ME WHILE I PREPARE THE FUTURE?"

"WE WILL GLADLY LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR YOU, OUR GODDESS!"

THEN HEED THE WORDS AND THOUGHTS OF SISTER MOONDRAGON.

I WILL BE WITH YOU AND GUIDE YOU THROUGH HER.

LET OUR HOLY CRUSADE BEGIN!

ENTRY REQUEST.

[redacted] IDENTIFIED:

NOMAD

ENTRY GRANTED.

THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HAPPENING OUT ON THEM STREETS. EVERYONE'S GONE STRAIGHT.

IT'S JUST PLAIN WEIRD~!

THAT'S JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. VISION, FILL OUR GUEST IN ON THE REST.

IT APPEARS THAT EVERY ARMED CONFLICT ON EARTH HAS COME TO AN UNEXPECTED HALT.

NO ONE'S DECLARED A CEASE-FIRE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

PEOPLE HAVE SUDDENLY JUST STOPPED SHOOTING EACH OTHER.

GUESS YOU SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT, STILL...

WE'LL HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT OUR FOE'S ACTUAL INTENTIONS ARE IF I CAN ONLY TRACE HER TELEPATHIC TRANSMISSIONS BACK TO THE SOURCE.

ARE WE ABSOLUTELY SURE THIS WOMAN SHOULD BE TREATED AS AN ENEMY?

NORTHSTAR! YOUR SISTER!!

AURORA? OH LORD!

WHAT TRANSPIRES?

AURORA IS EXPERIENCING AN IDENTITY SHIFT!

MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES? HOW MANY?

JUST TWO.

IS AURORA'S OTHER SELF RELIGIOUS?

VERY.

THE GODDESS... NEEDS ME...

BRUCE--! GRAB HER!

YOU LUMBERING BRUTE, TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF MY SISTER!

I WARNED YOU I SHALL AARRGH!

SOMEONE OUGHT TO COOL NORTHSTAR DOWN BEFORE HE HURTS HIMSELF!

SETTLE DOWN, NORTHSTAR. NO ONE'S GOING TO HARM YOUR SISTER. IN FACT, WE'RE GOING TO HELP HER.

SHE WANTS TO GO TO HER GODDESS...

...AND WE'RE GOING TO GIVE HER THE MEANS TO DO JUST THAT.

BUT ONLY WHEN WE'RE READY TO DO SO. YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES. I BELIEVE SO.

SHE-HULK, READY ONE OF THE AVENGERS' QUINJETS FOR TAKE OFF.

ON MY WAY.

HOW'S THE HEAD, BEN?

STILL RINGING. YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK KINDA DOWN.

CONFUSED. I ALWAYS KNEW SUE HAD THIS RELIGIOUS STREAK SHE PRETTY WELL KEPT TO HERSELF.

SAME WAY MYSELF. IT WAS THE WAY WE WERE RAISED.

THING IS, THOUGH, I'VE ALWAYS FELT MY BELIEFS WERE AS DEEP AS SUE'S.

GUESS I WAS MISTAKEN OR I WOULDN'T BE HERE. WONDER IF THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME?

DO I REALLY BELIEVE IN GOD? I THOUGHT I DID, BUT NOW...

WHERE HAS THIS DOUBT COME FROM..?

DOUBT SOMETIMES CREEPS IN FROM THE MOST UNEX-PECTED PLACES.

SOMETIMES EVEN FROM BELIEVIN' TOO MUCH.

WHEN I WAS A KID I HAD THIS AUNT I REALLY LIKED A LOT. HECK, I LOVED HER.

BUT SHE GOT THE BIG C, AND THE SAWBONES DIDN'T GIVE HER MUCH TIME.

"I GOT DOWN ON MY KNEES AND PRAYED TO GOD TO SAVE HER LIFE.

"FIGURED GOD COULDN'T NOT ANSWER SUCH AN UNSELFISH PRAYER.

"COURSE I WAS WRONG. AUNT SOPHIE DIED A FEW DAYS LATER.

"YOU CAN FIGURE HOW I REACTED.

"I REMEMBER THE KID RAGIN' AT GOD FOR LETTIN' HIS AUNT DIE.

"I WAS ONLY EIGHT YEARS OLD AND DIDN'T KNOW NO BETTER."

BUT THAT'S PROBABLY WHY I WASN'T AMONG THE CHOSEN.

LUCKY ME, HUH?

WONDER IF I'LL ALWAYS BE THAT LUCKY.

AND ON A NAME-LESS PLANET ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN...

GODDESS, I SENSE A FELLOW SISTER STRIVING TO REACH SANCTUARY.

I AM WELL AWARE OF THIS ENLIGHTENED SOUL'S STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES, MOONDRAGON.

HER PREDICAMENT IS BUT PART OF THE CELESTIAL PLAN TO BRING SALVATION TO THIS TROUBLED SPHERE OF EXISTENCE.

WE, THE CHOSEN FEW, ARE ABOUT TO PUT THE UNBELIEVING MASSES ON NOTICE.

I STILL DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF JUST THE THREE OF THEM GOING WITH HER.

THEY'RE THREE OF THE BEST.

IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO AURORA...

SHE'S HEADING FOR THE CONTROLS, JUST AS I FIGURED.

BUT AURORA'S NEVER BEEN CHECKED OUT ON THE QUINJET.

DOESN'T MATTER.

"IT'S NOT REALLY GOING TO BE HER FLYING THIS CRAFT.

"THE LADY'S UNDER THE CONTROL OF SOMETHING GREATER THAN HERSELF.

"WE'RE HEADING INTO SPACE. MAKES SENSE. NEVER THOUGHT THIS WAS AN EARTH-BOUND GODDESS WE WERE DEALING WITH."

MOONDRAGON, HAVE THE FAITHFUL TAKE UP THEIR ASSIGNED STATIONS.

WE HAVE COMPANY ON THE WAY.

"OUR TRAJECTORY SHOULD TAKE US AROUND THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN, REED."

"SOLAR FLARE ACTIVITY WOULD EXPLAIN WHY I WASN'T ABLE TO PIN DOWN THE POINT OF ORIGIN OF THIS GODDESS'S TELEPATHIC TRANSMISSIONS, VISION."

AURORA SEEMS COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS TO OUR PRESENCE.

YOU FIGURE HER MYSTERIOUS MISTRESS MIGHT BE EQUALLY IN THE DARK ABOUT US?

I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT. SHE HAS THE SERVICES OF THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS TO CALL UPON.

WE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY.

VISION, BEGIN TRANSMITTING ALL TELEMETRY THE SCANNERS ARE PICKING UP BACK TO EARTH.

IF WE DON'T RETURN FROM THIS LITTLE JAUNT, LET'S HOPE SOMEONE CAN MAKE GOOD USE OF OUR FINDINGS.

"THAT'S NOT THE MOST CHEERY THOUGHT I'VE HEARD ALL DAY, REED."

"I'VE ALWAYS PREFFERRED THE REALIST TO THE OPTIMIST, IRON MAN. THEY TEND TO PRODUCE SOUNDER RESULTS."

WE ARE NOT ALONE OUT HERE. LEAD SCANNERS HAVE PICKED UP...

TWO INDIVIDUALS WE CAN ADD TO YOUR LIST OF MISSING PERSONS, VISION.

"THE SILVER SURFER AND FIRELORD?! DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THEY ARE THRALLS OF THIS GODDESS??"

"YES. WHY ELSE WOULD THEY BE OUT HERE?

"THE REAL QUESTION IS, HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THEM?"

"IT DOES NOT APPEAR AS IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO."

"THEY'RE LETTING US PASS?!

"WHY?!"

BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY AN EVEN MORE PERILOUS SITUATION AWAITS US.

RIGHT AS USUAL, VISION. CHECK OUT THE FOWARD SCANNER.

I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED READINGS LIKE THESE BEFORE.

NOR I.

WHAT IS IT?

I'M NOT SURE, BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IT OUGHT TO BE COMING INTO VIEW...

...RIGHT ABOUT NOW!

"THAT'S NOT COUNTER-EARTH, IS IT? THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DESTROYED."

"IT WAS MONTHS AGO, IRON MAN. THIS IS SOMETHING COMPLETELY NEW. HAVE YOU ANY IDEA, REED?"

"PROBABLY CREATED BY THE GODDESS AND HAS THIS PLACE GOT AN AWESOME DEFENSE SYSTEM!

"ANY ONE OF THOSE MANNED SATELLITES HAS THE ARMORY TO EASILY ERADICATE A HUNDRED QUINJETS."

"WHAT'S THAT NIMBUS AROUND THE PLANET?"

"FROM THE SCANNER READINGS I'D GUESS IT'S A VARIABLE WAVE-LENGTH ENERGY SHIELD.

"WE GET WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES OF THAT RING AND IT'LL ATOMIZE US."

"THEN SHOULDN'T WE BE PUTTING THE BRAKES ON?"

FEAR NOT, TRESPASSERS, THE DEFENSIVE SCREEN WILL BE LOWERED AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT.

YOU SHALL NOT BE HARMED.

SO MUCH FOR US HAVING THE ELEMENT OF SUPRISE ON OUR SIDE.

"IT DOESN'T MATTER.

"WE CAME TO LEARN THE TRUTH.

"AND THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO GET IT.

"SO HANG ON TIGHT. THIS RIDE MIGHT GET A BIT BUMPY."

TARGET VESSEL OUT OF RANGE AND PROCEEDING TOWARD PLANET.

OVER AND OUT.

CRYSTAL, REED WAS ABOARD THAT VESSEL WE WERE PREPARED TO DESTROY.

I KNOW, SUE.

TO ANSWER THE CALL I LEFT SO MUCH BEHIND....

I HAD TO SAY GOODBYE TO REED, FRANKLIN... JOHNNY... EVERYTHING...

IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. YOU HAD NO CHOICE.

YOU'LL SEE.

WHEN THE RAPTURE OCCURS, ALL WILL BE MADE RIGHT.

ALL SOULS SHALL BE AS ONE AND HEAVEN WILL BE OURS.

THE GODDESS HAS ASSURED US THAT WE SHALL BE RE-UNITED WITH OUR LOVED ONES AND PERFECTION OF SPIRIT WILL BE THE NORM.

YES.

PERFECTION.

I KNOW.

"SENSORS SHOW A BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE BUT NO COMPLEX LIFE FORMS OTHER THAN A FEW HUMANS WAITING FOR US AT WHAT APPEARS TO BE OUR LANDING ZONE."

"WE'RE HEADING INTO MAJOR TROUBLE, AREN'T WE?"

"MOST LIKELY."

"ANY IDEA HOW WE'RE GOING TO EXTRICATE OURSELVES FROM THIS MESS?"

GODDESS, I AM HERE!

BY USING REASON AND LOGIC.

AND RUNNING AWAY AS FAST AS WE CAN IF THAT DOESN'T WORK?

EXACTLY.

SO MUCH FOR PLAN "A".

GREETINGS, NON-BELIEVERS. WELCOME TO PARADISE OMEGA!

YOU HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO TOUCH DOWN UPON HOLY SOIL, UNHARMED, FOR ONE REASON ONLY.

KNOW YOU THAT WE ARE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE SUPREME ONE AND THAT NO INTERFERENCE IN THESE LABORS WILL BE TOLERATED.

YOU HAVE NOW SEEN HOW IM-PREGNABLE OUR DEFENSES ARE.

RETURN TO YOUR WORLD AND TELL YOUR FELLOW SINNERS THAT TO CROSS OUR WILL WOULD PROVE INSTANTLY FATAL.

WE'LL BE MORE THAN GLAD TO DO THAT, YOUR GODDESS-SHIP, BUT--

...IF YOU'RE REALLY SO ALL-POWERFUL, WHY DO YOU NEED THESE FOLLOWERS?

I DO NOT CLAIM OMNIPOTENCE. I TOO AM A SERVANT.

I WELCOME AND CHERISH THE AID MY FAITHFUL FRIENDS HAVE GIVEN TO ME FREELY AND WITH THEIR WHOLE HEARTS.

FREELY?

MY INSTRUMENTATION INDICATES OTHERWISE.

YOU DARE QUESTION MY WORD?

MY SCANNER IS PICKING UP HEAVY TELEPATHIC ENERGIES BEING DIRECTED FROM YOUR CONTAINMENT UNIT TO THE INDIVIDUALS IN YOUR RETINUE.

LIES!

MY MIND GEM WOULD HAVE LONG AGO PICKED UP ON ANY SUCH TELEPATIC ACTIVITY.

MOONDRAGON IS NO ONE'S THRALL!

ARE YOU CERTAIN?

YES.

GODDESS, IF YOU ARE TRULY ABOUT THE SUPREME ONE'S WORK, LET ME EXTEND AN OFFER.

SPEAK.

PRESENT ARE SOME OF EARTH'S FINEST MINDS. LET US HELP YOU IN YOUR LABORS.

SUCH AN OFFER WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED IF IT WERE BUT GIVEN IN A TRUE AND LOVING SPIRIT, DR. RICHARDS.

BUT I DO SENSE THE DUPLICITY OF YOUR WORDS.

YOU WOULD SABOTAGE OUR LOVING LABORS AT YOUR FIRST OPPORTUNITY, INFIDEL.

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!

THAT IS WHY, FROM THIS MOMENT ON, NO ONE SHALL SET FOOT UPON PARADISE OMEGA UNLESS THEIR HEART IS PURE AND THEIR SOUL ONE WITH OUR OWN.

BE GONE, INFIDELS!

HUH?

WE'RE BACK ABOARD THE QUINJET!

AND ALIVE!

WHAT IS EVEN MORE REMARK-ABLE IS WHERE OUR CRAFT CURRENTLY IS.

"WE ARE IN ORBIT AROUND THE PLANET EARTH."

"OUR TELEMETRY?!"

ALL ON-BOARD COMPUTERS BANKS HAVE BEEN ERASED. I WOULD IMAGINE THE SIGNAL WE TRANSMITTED BACK TO EARTH HAS ALSO BEEN ERADICATED.

A WASTED TRIP.

NOT ENTIRELY.

WE ARE NOW ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT OUR FRIENDS HAVE BEEN MENTALLY ENSLAVED AND CAN NOW DEAL WITH THEM ACCORDINGLY.

I WONDER WHY THIS GODDESS JUST DIDN'T DO THE SAME TO US?

PERHAPS SHE DIDN'T FEEL WE WERE WORTHY OF THE HONOR.

MORE LIKELY SHE MERELY HAD NO REAL NEED FOR US.

A SHORT TIME LATER, BACK AT AVENGERS' H.Q. ...

...AND THAT'S ALL WE PRESENTLY KNOW.

QUITE A TALE, PROFESSOR. WILL YOU BE RETURNING DIRECTLY?

NO, WE HAVE ONE STOP TO MAKE.

THIS GODDESS SEEMS LIKE ONE TOUGH CUSTOMER.

TRUE, BUT I'M NOT SURE I AGREE WITH ALL OF DR. RICHARDS' CONCLUSIONS ABOUT HER.

WHAT YA MEAN?

WHAT IF THE GODDESS'S END GOAL IS AS SHE CLAIMS?

LADY, DID YOU FLIP A COG OR SOMETHING?

I TOO AM NOT YET 100% CERTAIN THIS GODDESS SHOULD BE TREATED AS A VILLAIN.

YOU'RE NOT BUYING INTO HER ACT ABOUT BEING A SAINT, ARE YOU??

NO. NOR AM I CLOSING MY MIND TO ANY POSSIBILITIES.

WHERE I COME FROM THE GOOD GUYS DON'T GO AROUND ENSLAVING FOLKS' MINDS.

GRANTED. BUT WE ARE DEALING WITH A VERY UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL--

--UNDER EXTREMELY UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

SHE CLAIMS TO BE ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS AND THAT MAY YET PROVE TO BE TRUE.

MIGHT NOT HER MENTAL DOMINATION OF OUR FELLOW PARANORMALS BE COMPARED TO THE AVENGERS' DEFENSIVE ARMORY AROUND THIS ISLAND?

DO WE REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT TO JUDGE THIS BEING BY OUR OWN STANDARDS?

IF WE COULD DELIVER ON WHAT THE GODDESS PROMISES, TO WHAT LENGTHS WOULD WE GO TO DEFEND THAT GOAL?

IF SHE CAN ERADICATE ALL EVIL FROM THE UNIVERSE, DON'T YOU FIGURE THERE REALLY WOULD BE DARK FORCES OUT TO GET HER?

YEP. DOOM, THANOS, MEPHISTO, JUST TO NAME A FEW.

C'MON NOW!

WE'RE THE GUYS IN THE WHITE HATS! IF SHE'S STRAIGHT, WHY'S SHE CUTTING US OUT OF THE ACTION?

PERHAPS WE'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH BY HER MEASURE.

OR DUMB ENOUGH TO BUY HER LINE OF BULL DROP-PINGS.

ALL SPECULATION. ALL USELESS DEBATE.

THE TRUTH IS THE GODDESS IS PLAYING WITH FORCES THAT WE CANNOT ALLOW TO RUN UNCHECKED.

DESPITE WHAT ANY OF US THINK, WE ALL KNOW THAT WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS SECOND COMING TO DAWN WITHOUT US KNOWING WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT SUNRISE.

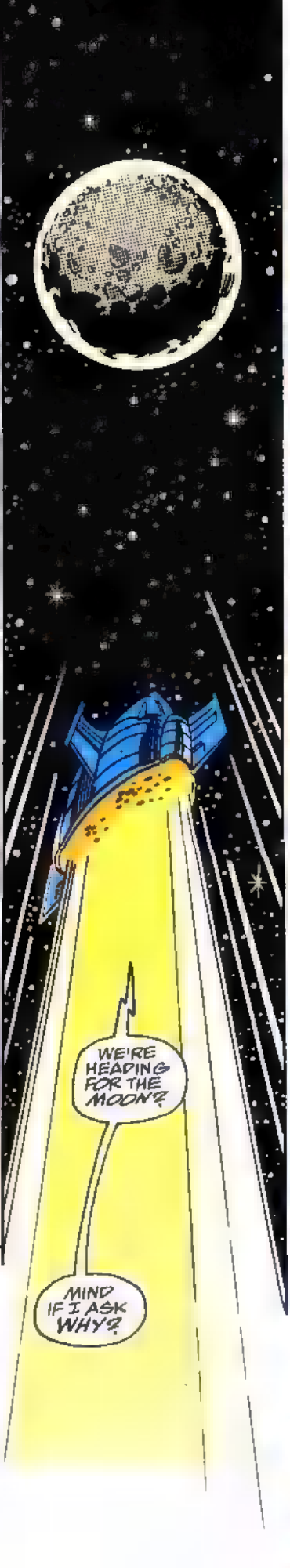
EXILED INTO A DISTANT DIMENSION BY SUPPOSEDLY HIS GOOD FEMININE SELF...

...HE AWOKE TO FIND REALITY RUPTURED AND IN NEED OF MENDING.

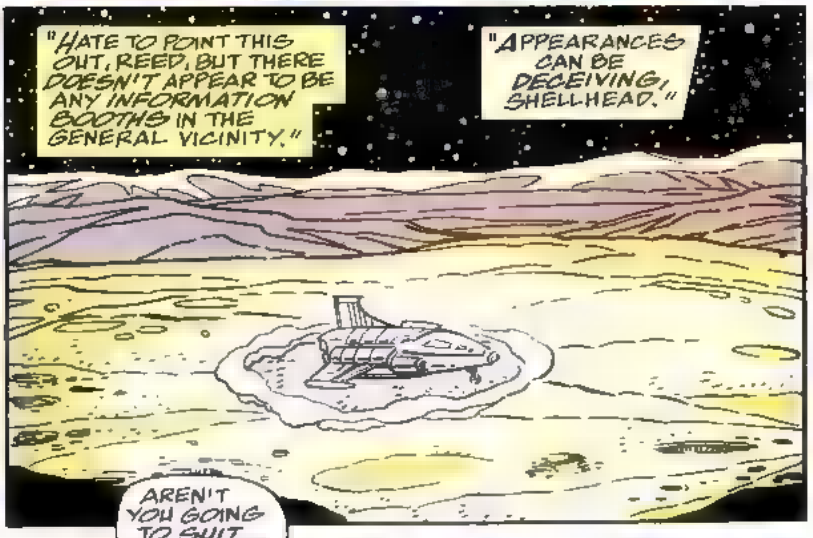
THE CAUSE AND CURE FOR THIS MALADY CAN ONLY BE ONE AND THE SAME.

SO ADAM WARLOCK PLUNGES INTO THE DEPTHS OF DISTORTED ACTUALITY...

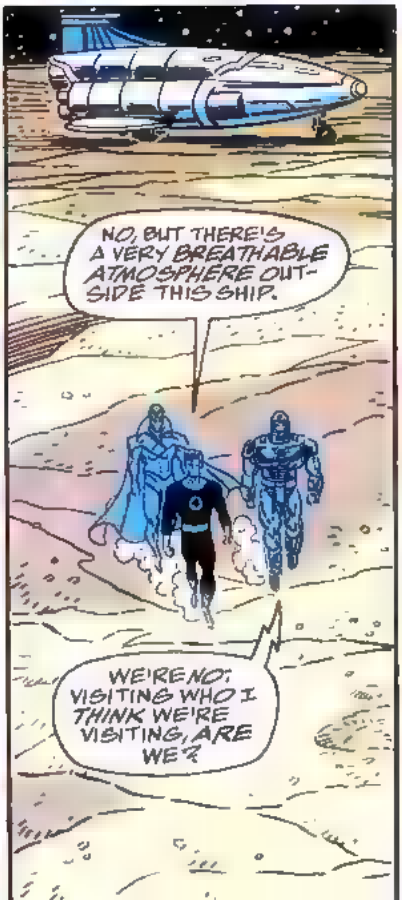
...IN ORDER TO RESCUE THE GUARDIAN OF THE REALITY GEM!

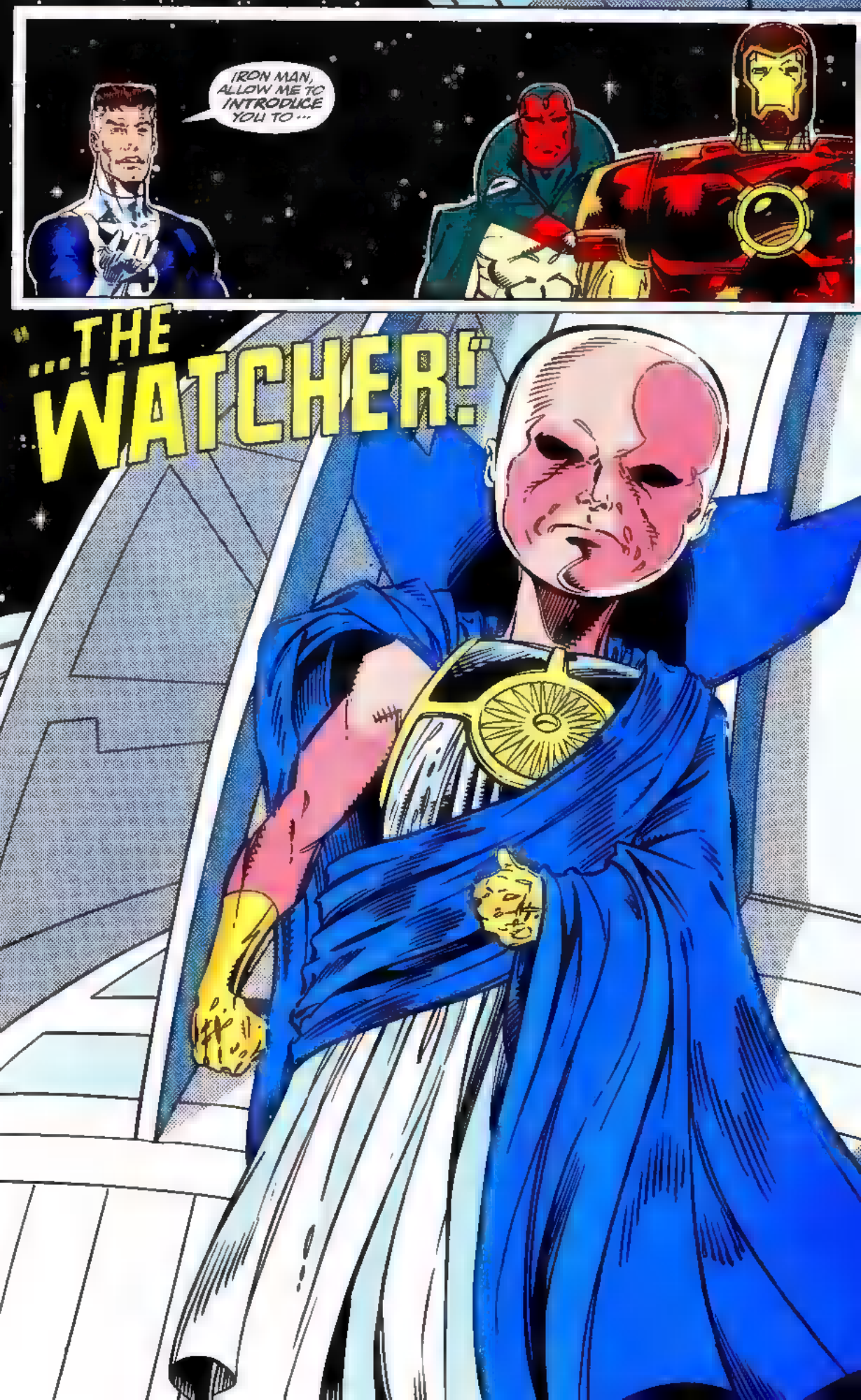

WE'RE HEADING FOR THE MOON?
MIND IF I ASK WHY?

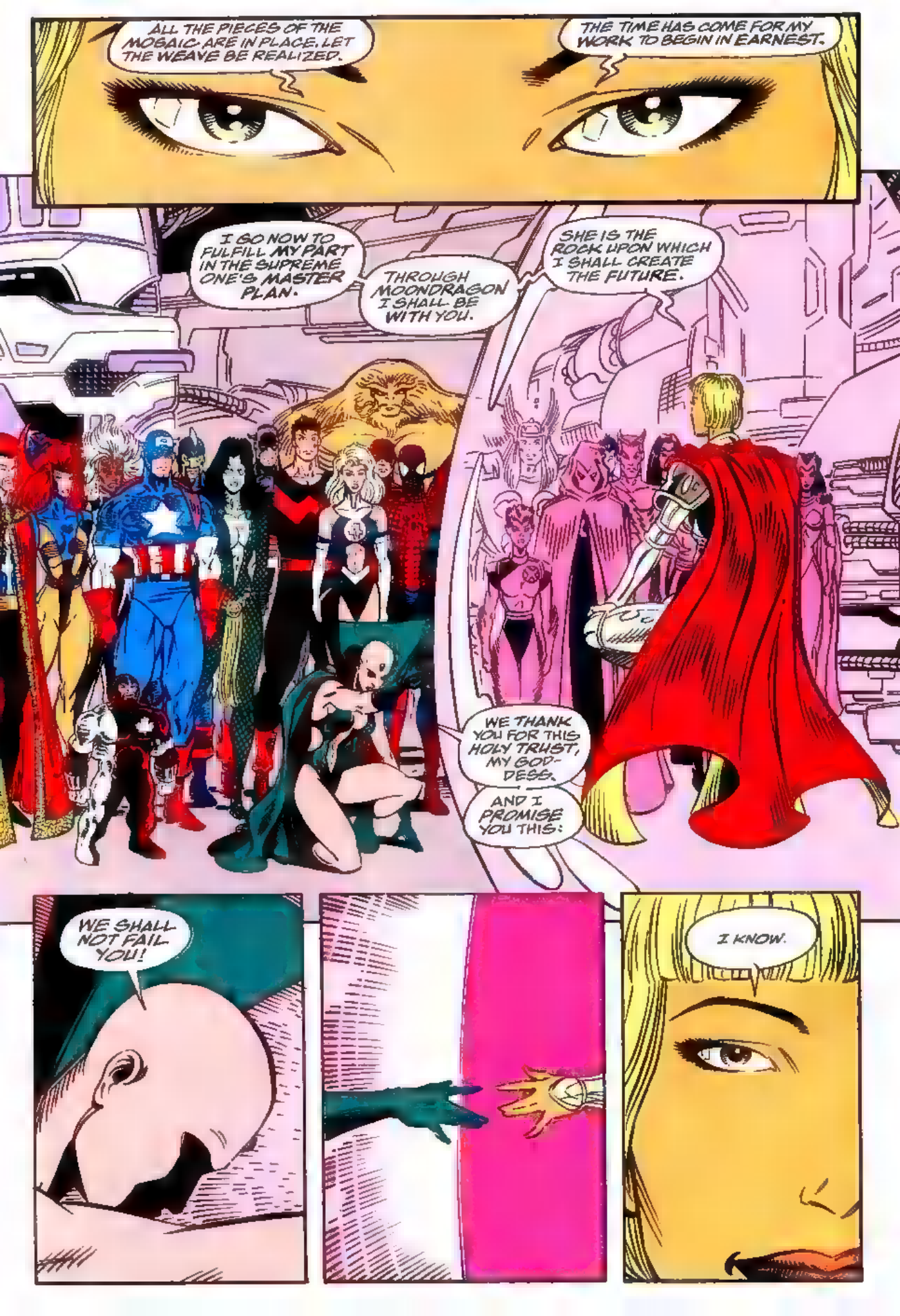
BECAUSE THERE CAN ■ FOUND ONE SOURCE OF COSMIC INTELLIGENCE I DOUBT EVEN THIS GODDESS COULD CUT US OFF FROM.
TRICK IS, THOUGH, GETTING HIM TO OPEN UP FOR US.


"HATE TO POINT THIS OUT, REED, BUT THERE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE ANY INFORMATION BOOTHS IN THE GENERAL VICINITY."
"APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING, SHELLHEAD."

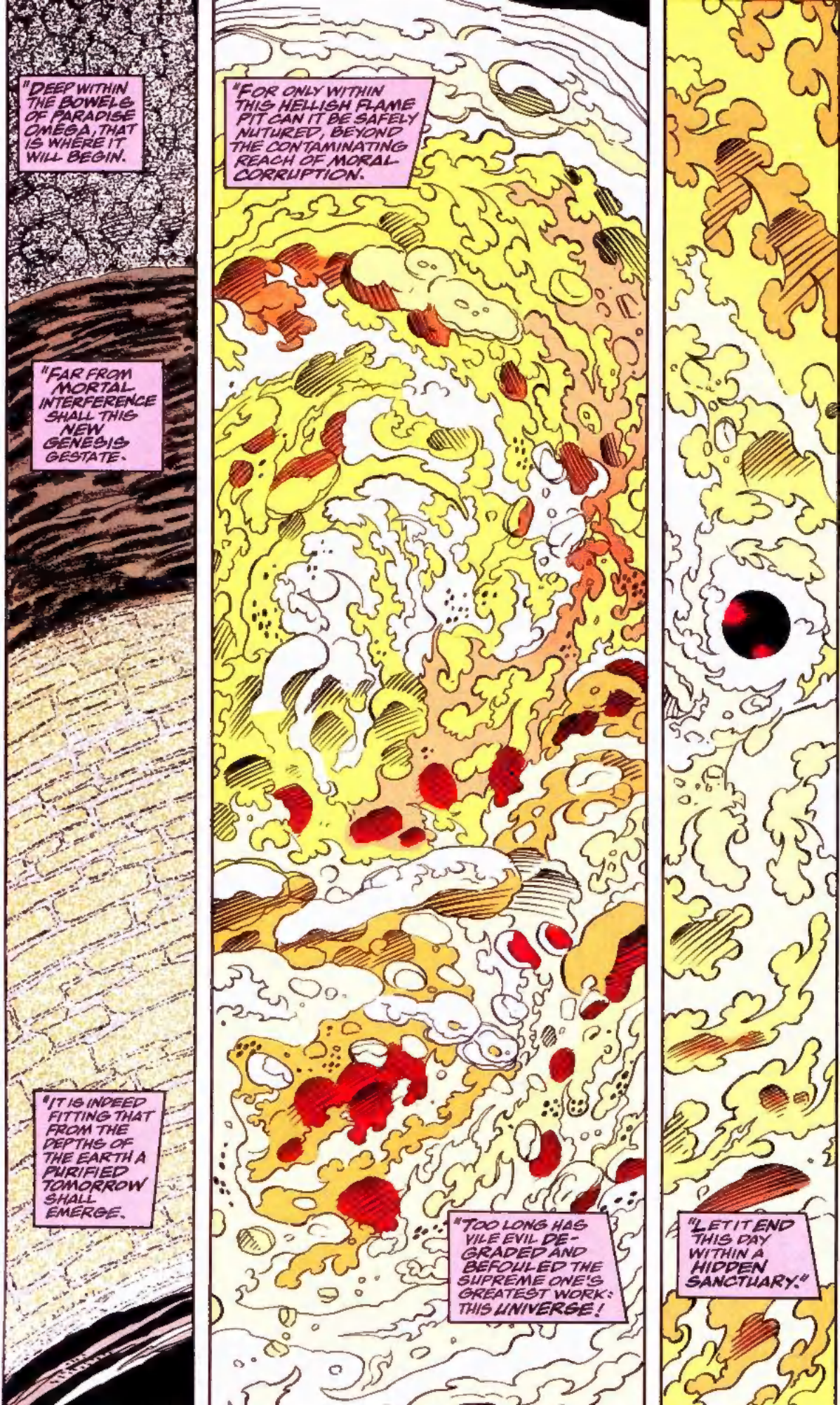
AREN'T YOU GOING TO SUIT UP, REED?
DON'T HAVE TO.
YOU FORGET WE'RE ON THE MOON?

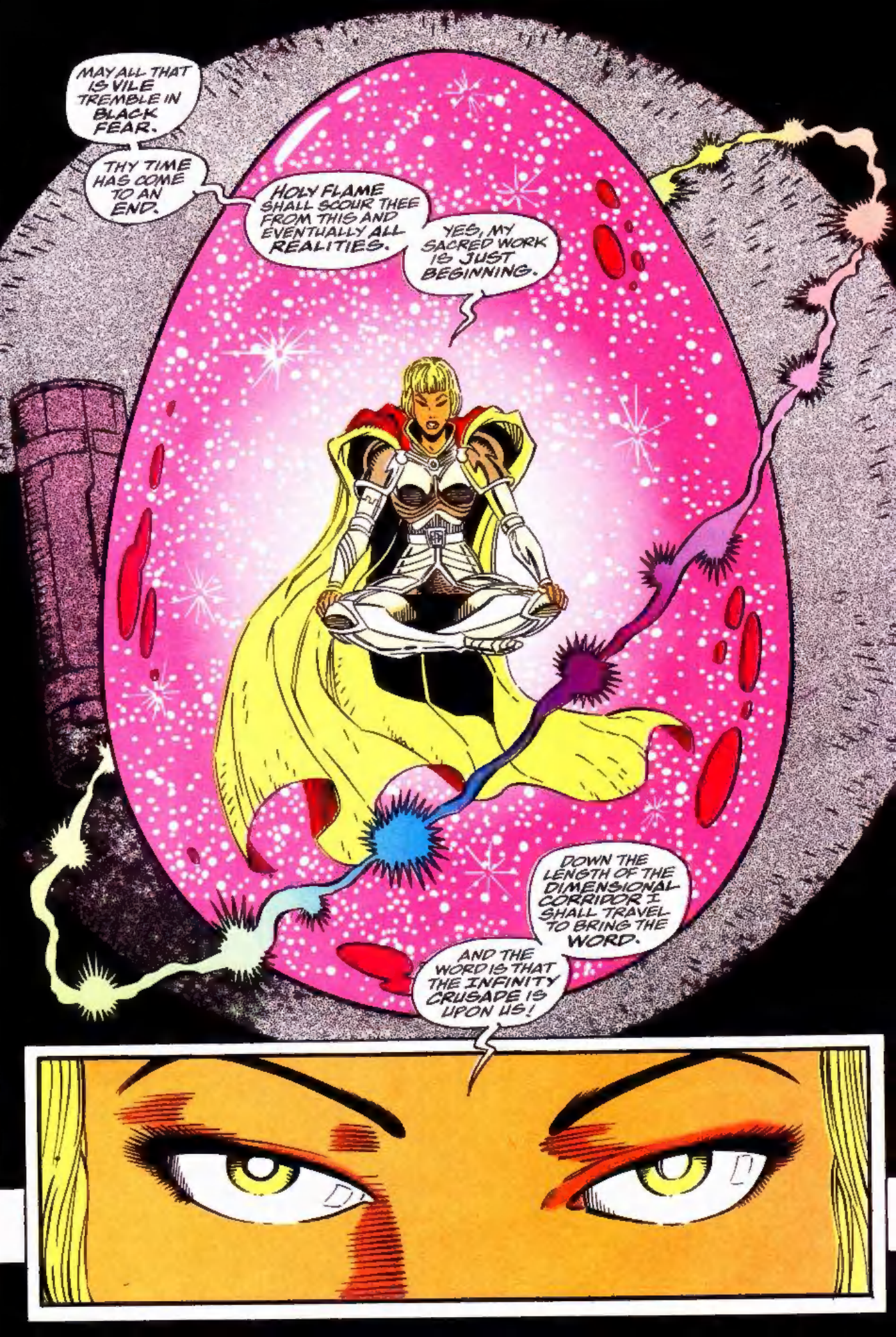

NO, BUT THERE'S A VERY BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE OUTSIDE THIS SHIP.
WE'RE NO; VISITING WHO I THINK WE'RE VISITING, ARE WE?

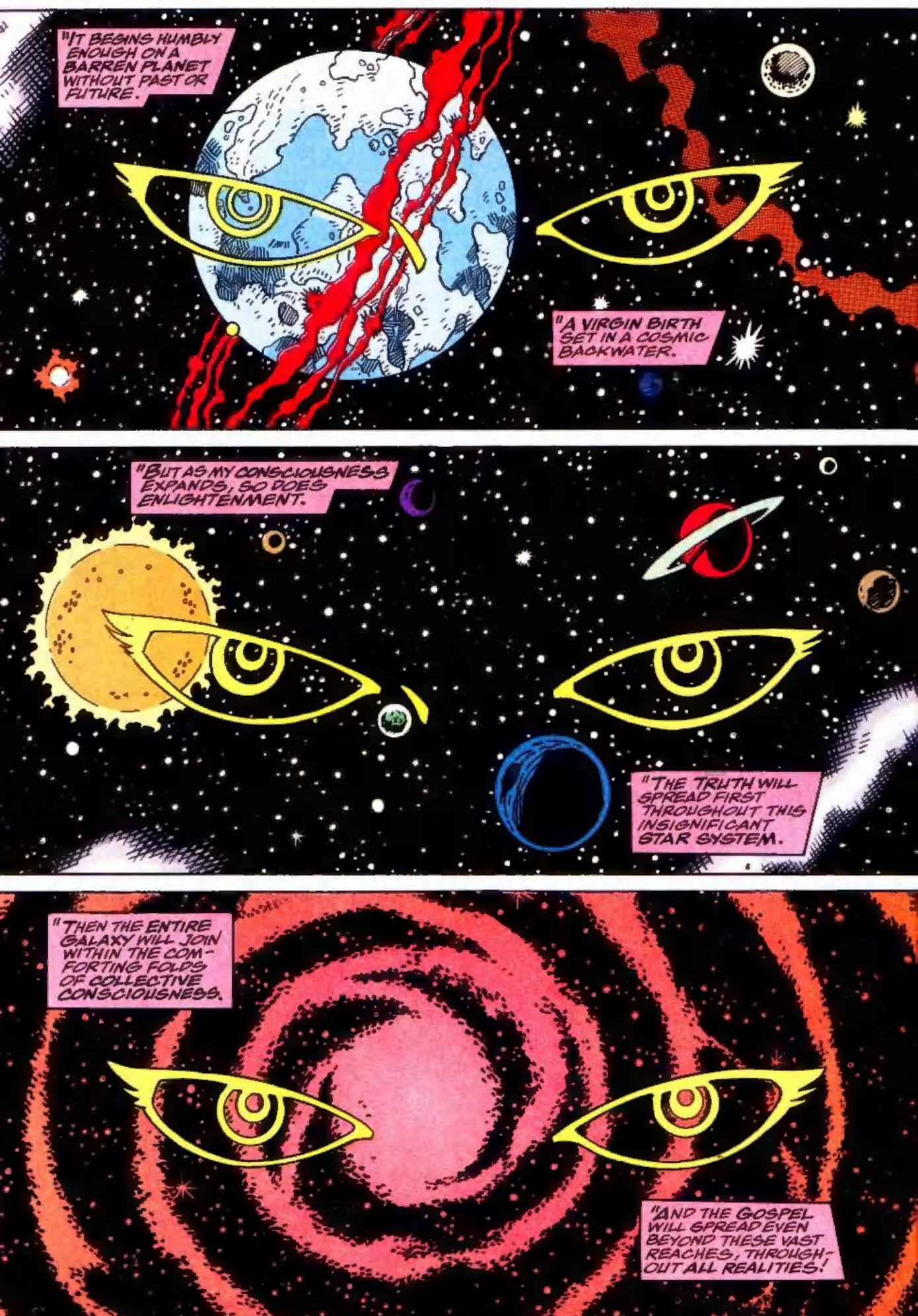

IRON MAN, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO...
"...THE WATCHER!"

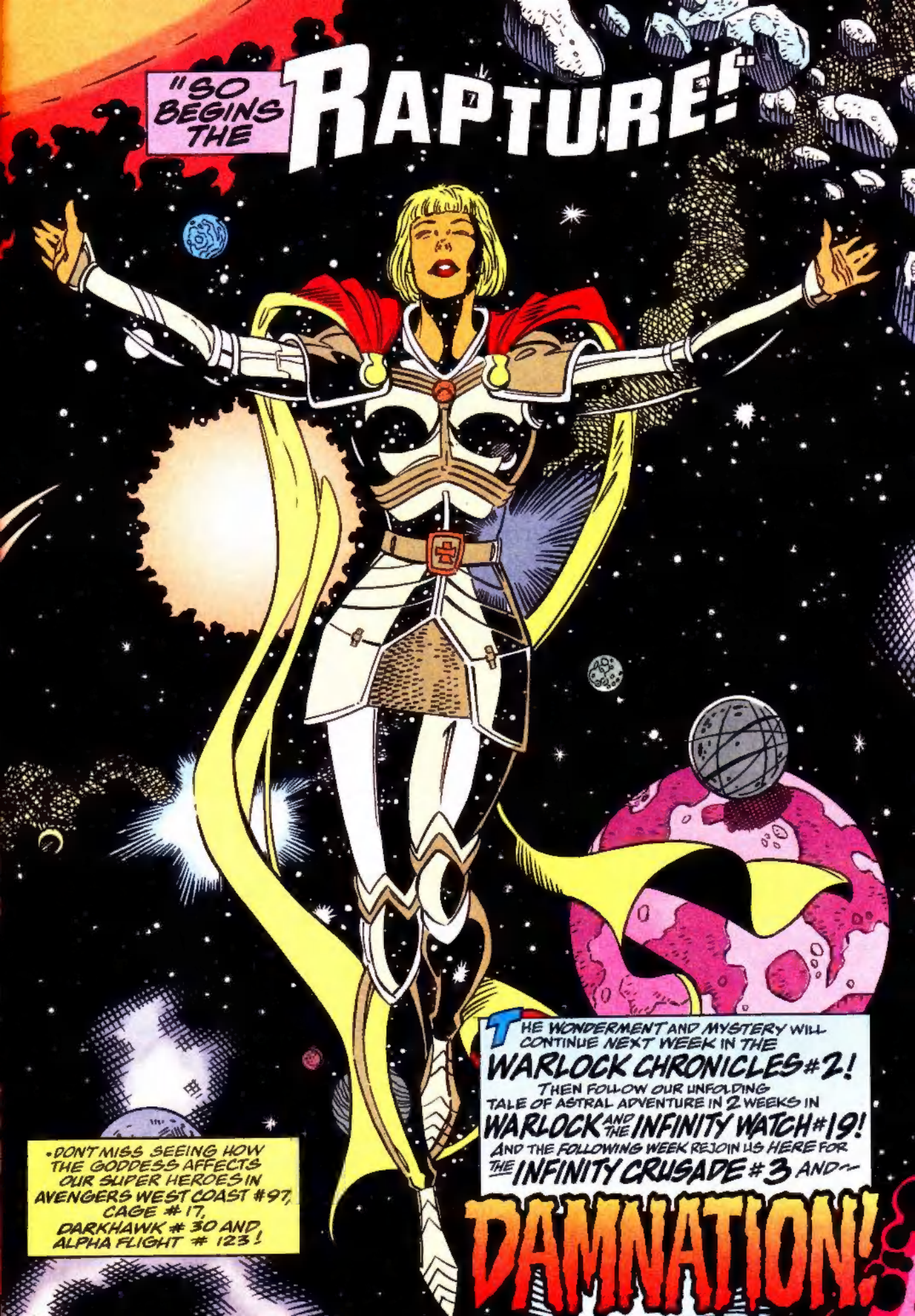

ALL THE PIECES OF THE MOSAIC ARE IN PLACE. LET THE WEAVE BE REALIZED.
THE TIME HAS COME FOR MY WORK TO BEGIN IN EARNEST.
I GO NOW TO FULFILL MY PART IN THE SUPREME ONE'S MASTER PLAN.
THROUGH MOONDRAGON I SHALL BE WITH YOU.
SHE IS THE ROCK UPON WHICH I SHALL CREATE THE FUTURE.
WE THANK YOU FOR THIS HOLY TRUST, MY GOD-DESS.
AND I PROMISE YOU THIS:
WE SHALL NOT FAIL YOU!
I KNOW.

THEN FARE THEE WELL, MY CHILDREN!
I SHALL REJOIN YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ULTIMATE ENLIGHTEN-MENT!
PRAY FOR ME, MY FAITHFUL ONES!
PRAY FOR THE UNIVERSE!
AND BE STRONG!


"DEEP WITHIN THE BOWELS OF PARADISE OMEGA, THAT IS WHERE IT WILL BEGIN.
"FAR FROM MORTAL INTERFERENCE SHALL THIS NEW GENESIS GESTATE.
"IT IS INDEED FITTING THAT FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH A PURIFIED TOMORROW SHALL EMERGE.
"FOR ONLY WITHIN THIS HELLISH FLAME PIT CAN IT BE SAFELY NURTURED, BEYOND THE CONTAMINATING REACH OF MORAL CORRUPTION.
"TOO LONG HAS VILE EVIL DE-GRADED AND BEFOULED THE SUPREME ONE'S GREATEST WORK: THIS UNIVERSE!
"LET IT END THIS DAY WITHIN A HIDDEN SANCTUARY."


MAY ALL THAT IS VILE TREMBLE IN BLACK FEAR.
THY TIME HAS COME TO AN END.
HOLY FLAME SHALL SCOUR THEE FROM THIS AND EVENTHALLY ALL REALITIES.
YES, MY SACRED WORK IS JUST BEGINNING.
DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR I SHALL TRAVEL TO BRING THE WORD.
AND THE WORD IS THAT THE INFINITY CRUSADE IS UPON US!


"IT BEGINS HUMBLY ENOUGH ON A BARREN PLANET WITHOUT PAST OR FUTURE.
"A VIRGIN BIRTH SET IN A COSMIC BACKWATER.
"BUT AS MY CONSCIOUSNESS EXPANDS, SO DOES ENLIGHTENMENT.
"THE TRUTH WILL SPREAD FIRST THROUGHOUT THIS INSIGNIFICANT STAR SYSTEM.
"THEN THE ENTIRE GALAXY WILL JOIN WITHIN THE COMFORTING FOLDS OF COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS.
"AND THE GOSPEL WILL SPREAD EVEN BEYOND THESE VAST REACHES, THROUGHOUT ALL REALITIES!


"SO BEGINS THE RAPTURE!"
THE WONDERMENT AND MYSTERY WILL CONTINUE NEXT WEEK IN THE WARLOCK CHRONICLES #2!
THEN FOLLOW OUR UNFOLDING TALE OF ASTRAL ADVENTURE IN 2 WEEKS IN WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #19!
AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK REJOIN US HERE FOR THE INFINITY CRUSADE #3 AND—
DAMNATION!
•DON'T MISS SEEING HOW THE GODDESS AFFECTS OUR SUPER HEROES IN AVENGERS WEST COAST #97, CAGE #17, DARKHAWK #30 AND ALPHA FLIGHT #123!